

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

May 2, 2019

Dr. Patrick Breysse
Director
Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry
4770 Buford Hwy, NE (MS F59)
Atlanta, GA 30341-3717

Dear Director Breysse:


We write to request that the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) conduct air monitoring at two facilities in Lake County, Medline and Vantage. We urge ATSDR to determine whether ambient air levels of ethylene oxide exceed levels determined to be safe by your Agency. We also reiterate our request that ATSDR immediately conduct a health consultation in Lake County using data observed in the community when it becomes available, to determine whether a public health risk exists and would like to work with ATSDR in holding a community forum to discuss ethylene oxide and its public health impacts.

Since exposure to ethylene oxide became a concern in Illinois, ATSDR has been a critical leader in helping to determine the scope of the problem. Your Agency also played a pivotal role in communicating the risks of ethylene oxide exposure to communities in Illinois. Our constituents trust that as a Federal public health agency, ATSDR, is capable of conducting an independent and thorough examination of potential ethylene oxide exposure in Lake County.


We believe the public health challenge posed by ethylene oxide require a whole of government approach. As the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency continues to refuse to invest resources in these communities, we are asking ATSDR to provide vital Federal assistance to Lake County in making sure air monitoring takes place and interpreting data derived from the ambient air levels of ethylene oxide.

With ATSDR's leadership, we can reassure these families that their government will always prioritize public health. We thank you for your Agency's time and attention to this request.

Sincerely,



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Bradley S. Schneider

Member of Congress



Bill Foster

Member of Congress



Daniel W. Lipinski

Member of Congress



Sean Casten

Member of Congress



Lauren Underwood

Member of Congress